

Objected to Claim 8 has been rewritten as an independent claim to include the preamble portion of Claim 7, and the redundant parts of Claim 1 have not been included. Thus, Claim 8 is considered allowable.

Claim 17 has been rewritten as an independent claim, and the redundant parts of Claim 1 have not been included. Thus, Claim 17 is considered allowable.

Objected to Claims 12-14 and their dependent Claims 15 and 16 have been made dependent from allowed Claim 22.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Tao (US 6,456,105). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the present invention is directed to a method of measuring capacitance of micro structures of an integrated circuit. The micro structure includes a first sensing terminal not connected to ground and separated from a second biasing terminal and a third terminal by an insulator. The method includes applying a biasing potential to the second terminal and applying a common potential to the first and third terminals. An electrical characteristic only between the first and second terminals is measured at the first terminal to determine the capacitance only between the first and second terminals.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of Claim 6 and, thus, Claim 6 has been canceled. Claims 7, 9 and 10 have been amended to correspond to the amendment of Claim 1.

Claim 1 has been clarified to indicate that the first terminal is the sensing terminal, and the characteristic only between the first and second terminals is to be measured to determine the capacitance only between the first and second terminals.

In the rejection, source region 18 has been identified as the first terminal, gate 12 as the second terminal and drain region 20 as the third terminal. In that first terminal 18 is grounded, it cannot be a sensed terminal. The only ungrounded sensor terminal in Tao is the gate terminal 12. If terminal 12 is the first sensed terminal, then the third terminal (which may be source 18 or drain 20) is not connected to a common potential with the first terminal 12 but to a common potential with the third terminal. Thus, Tao cannot anticipate the claim nor would it be obvious to modify it to meet the limitation of the claims. Also, the capacitance between the gate 12 and both the source 18 and the drain 20 are measured. It is not taught nor is it obvious to measure the capacitance only between the gate and one of the

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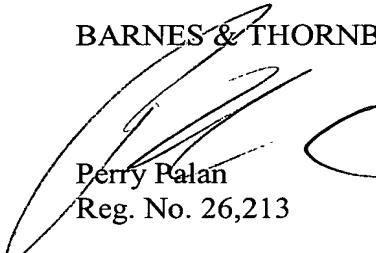
source or drain. This is not the teaching of Tao. Thus, Claim 1, as amended, is considered allowable over Tao.

Having met all of the requirements, the subject application is in condition for allowance. Thus, the passage of this case to issue is hereby requested.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (35640/36899).

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure